

PROGRESS.

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GOOD FOR THE LAWYERS.

THEY ARE GOING IN FOR REFORM WITH A VENGEANCE.

The Proposed Law Building Which Would Bring All the Courts Together—How the Cost Might be Met—Comments Made About the Question.

The Barristers' Society are developing a scheme that will, if carried into effect, be the solution of some problems that have been exercising the minds of the legal fraternity for decades. They propose to construct a building in which to bring together all the courts, the law library, the city offices and other institutions.

The idea has been maturing for some time in the minds of a number of leading members of the society and at a meeting on Tuesday afternoon it was discussed at length and a committee was appointed to take the matter in hand. They propose to communicate with the civic, municipal, provincial and Dominion authorities on the matter and to ask their co-operation.

They have in mind the construction of a building to cost say \$100,000, and in which would be brought together the law library, equity court, probate court, the offices now contained in the city hall, the county court, circuit court, sheriff's office, registry office, judges' chambers, admiralty, and possibly the supreme court.

Just after the fire a somewhat similar scheme was propounded but it did not reach an issue but this time the fraternity are more enthusiastic and determined. They think that the supreme court should sit in St. John and they will try to obtain that concession from the attorney-general. Once before they tried this, but he being then a resident of Fredericton was opposed. As he is now a St. John man he might be induced to consider the proposition with more favor.

It would be in their plans to induce the city to sell the city building, which might be used for a bank. Then the court house might be removed and portions of it used in the construction of the new building. This might be erected upon the site of the court house or else in some more central locality and this site disposed of. It would be an excellent hotel site and should find a ready purchaser.

For years the lawyers have been complaining about the court house. The sanitary and heating arrangements are very bad and in winter there is great fear of cold from drafts. Then, again, the registry office is too small. Another point in which there would be a benefit would be the improvement of the appearance of King Square. The court house encroaches on King street east, and seriously impairs the appearance of that fine thoroughfare, and every citizen would probably like to see it out of there.

It is contended that there would not be any increased burden on any of the parties concerned by the construction of the building. Part of the cost would be defrayed by the selling of the city buildings. Four per cent. bonds might be issued for the amount of the cost and the city or province might guarantee the interest.

Recorder Skinner, Judge Treisman, C. W. Weldon, G. G. Gilbert and C. A. Stockton are among those who are chiefly interested in the idea though the whole body of lawyers of the city desire its success as it would be a great convenience to them to have all the courts brought together.

THE CHINAMAN DISGUISED.

The Reason why He did not Want the Chinese Newspaper.

A funny story is that told concerning a leading instructor of youth who lives in Amherst. Amherst has been getting more and more of a city of late years, its latest acquisition which helps to put it on a footing with the larger towns being a Chinese laundryman, Mr. Foo Choo, who has far more intelligence than the average washerman. An interview with this gentleman on the subject of the Chinese-Japanese war would likely be far more productive of an intelligent view on the question than was obtained from the St. John Chinamen who were recently interviewed on the question.

The principal of the Amherst academy recently had a Chinese paper sent to him from the Pacific coast. The professor was in somewhat the same position as the unfortunate scientists who were wrecked near the Ballygoolo Islands, and who "in spite of all their variety knowledge, and all the languages learned at college, had to fall back upon one of the crew to converse in the language of Ballygoolo." Greek he knew; Latin he knew; he was versed in the romance languages, he had studied German—high, low, jack and the game; he was versed with the umlauts and ablauts at his own earlier tongue; but in the flowery language of the flowery kindom he was not by any means as well versed as the man who did his washing.

The principal is a gentleman who believes in the universal brotherhood of man, and he had not had the paper in his possession long before wanting to share the enjoyment of its contents with his celestial

friend. The fact that the principal's early education was neglected, inasmuch as he understood very little Chinese, was not a very favorable omen for his success, as the Chinaman understood very little English.

When the principal handed Mr. Foo the paper, he of the Ben Butler eyes was delighted. He grabbed the paper from the hands of the pedagogue, and commenced to read it. But he had not read long before he handed back the paper, with an expression of supreme disgust. The principal was sorely puzzled, but when, after much conversation in the Chinese language, the language of signs and our own mother tongue, the teacher was informed that the paper was thirty years old, the principal's surprise was dispelled. The Chinaman was not an antiquarian, and the last words the principal heard as he went up the street were, "Me wantee something latee! me wantee something latee!"

BETTING ON DEATH.

Two Wagers Won in Halifax on Dr. Buchanan.

HALIFAX, May 16.—The spirit of gambling seems to be inherent in man. He would risk his money in almost any way or anything that gives a chance of increasing it while it is present in nearly everybody the spirit of gambling is more prominently developed in some than in others. What will be thought of the proportions in which this propensity has grown when it leads men to bet on the life of one whose days are almost numbered, even if he is a bad man, or a condemned wife-murderer for the matter of that. Two wagers were won last week on Dr. Buchanan, one of them \$10 and the other \$20. A well known advertising agent, not a native of Halifax, and a Water street business man, bet \$40 on Buchanan's surviving the Wednesday which ended the respite granted the poor man who is awaiting the death chair at Sing Sing. Buchanan's life was spared for the time being and the advertising man pulled in \$40.

Such, for instance, was the game of billiards which was afterwards lost, and with it ten dollars by the winner of the \$40. The surprise he experienced in finding himself beaten was greater than the chagrin of losing the money. He could afford to lose the cash gracefully, however, for the winner of the \$40 on Buchanan's spared life was the loser of the \$10 on his own billiard playing, which he thought was nearly immaculate.

The Vaudeville People Were Game.

It was announced that there was to be an all summer variety show at the Institute but it lasted only a fortnight. The stage and greenroom, the pit and galleries are silent again after their occupation. There was nothing very new about the story of its brief career, merely the oft repeated tale of a manager who skips out with the receipts. When Gorton went away he took \$250 with him, the week's receipts for the show. He did not wait either to pay any of the bills. Or at least this is what those whom he left behind say, though variety actors are not to be strictly depended upon, for, living as they do in a land of fiction, they may imbibe some of it themselves. The result was his companion was stranded, but they went vigorously to work and continued the show and get enough together in another week's performance to pay their own bills, Gorton's bills as well, so they claim, and to take them back to the States. So St. John isn't such a bad show town after all. Two of the company were formerly of St. John. Mr. Ramsdell is prominent in variety business and is a good performer. The stage manager was Hampton youth, Whitcomb by name. He ran away a few months ago and came back here to look after the stage and properties and to do a minor turn.

Why Carleton Is Proud.

Carleton feels quite proud, even though the grain elevator has not this winter occupied a sphere any more important than to displace a certain number of cubic feet of sea air and to fill up the landscape with red brick. For have they not, through their representative, been awarded the honor of presiding as warden in the municipal council? Ald. Baxter was the choice of that body, though it had been thought that Ald. Blizard would have given the honor. Though long connected with the council, the veteran Duke ward man carries none of the honors this year. At the caucus when the positions were divided it was settled that Ald. Blizard should be warden. But then the Carleton man came into the field and won all his allegiance from him and it is said that he had the support of eleven out of the fifteen city men, while he had at least his share of the county support. Ald. Blizard saw he was not in it and so decorously retired. Ald. Baxter is out and out on one side or another in all matters. The genial man from Dukas is usually wavering between two opinions.

THE WORK AT THE PARK.

AN IDEA OF WHAT HAS BEEN AND IS BEING DONE.

The Views of the Gentlemen Prominent in the Association Against the Purchase of a Small lot of Land Which is Expensive—What the Ladies are Doing.

The Horticultural Association has become one of the established institutions of the city. The work that they have already accomplished has been sufficient to win for them the hearty support of all good citizens. In beautifying the squares, inculcating a love for flowers by the holding of exhibitions and in establishing a park and public gardens they are doing much to improve the city and to render it attractive.

Lately they have been busy arranging plans for their season's work and the extent of those plans show that they are ambitious. They are meeting with encouragement on all sides and a sentiment is reaching created of popular approval of their work that will in time justify the city council in doing something to help along the enterprise. With the land that they already have and for that which negotiating the association will have a tract of about 300 acres encircling and including Lily Lake. This will of itself make a complete park and the beautiful country about would admit of unlimited extension when the time came that the means at their disposal would allow.

The first property acquired was the Daniel property which was obtained from the Messrs. Pugsley by purchase. This is Rockwood, an area of about 35 or 40 acres at the further end of the lake. Then adjoining this, facing on the lake and running back some distance, is the area of about 133 acres given by Mr. J. D. Hazen. Next to this is the Fitzgerald property of between 50 and 60 acres, taking in part of the lake. This was acquired by purchase. This is what the association holds now and totals about 225 acres.

In order to complete the circuit of the lake it is necessary to obtain two other properties. One is the Gilbert property of 18 acres abutting upon the side of the lake nearest the city. Just below this and reaching down toward the marsh creek is a stretch of meadow land which they had some idea of getting. Mr. Vaux, the landscape gardener who was here, thought it would be advisable to purchase this piece, but they have about concluded not to. This was one of the chief questions that they had to consider when a delegation visited the land on Saturday last. They then about concluded that they would not need this land. This eighteen acre will cost between \$1,000 and \$5,000.

Another area that they are negotiating about belongs to the Hazen estate and consists of about 56 acres at the end of the lake adjoining Mount Pleasant avenue. This they hope to get for about \$4,000. This is the extent of their present ambition. Later they might think of extending, and ultimately the other surrounding lakes and woodland might be taken in and the site of the proposed highland park might even be included. One very fine piece is the Deury property of 400 acres running back to the Highland Park.

The roads which have already been made through the park will have considerable repairs immediately and other roads will be laid out this summer. The idea is to have a road encircling the lake, with other roads intersecting the various parts of the park. Thus people will be enabled to enjoy the pretty drive and picnic parties will have a chance to get right into the woods and spend a day of enjoyment beneath the trees.

This gives some idea of the general scope of their work and it shows that within a short space of time and with limited funds they have accomplished and are accomplishing a great deal.

Their plans in regard to the public garden are also very definite. They have an area of four acres on Seely street admirably adapted for the purpose of a garden. It consists of a depressed piece of ground on Seely street with a hill rising behind it and over-looking the lake. The hill has a southerly facing and there will be an Alpine or rock garden here. At the foot of the hill a greenhouse has been constructed and here the plants will be grown that will be placed in the public squares.

The garden will be laid out this summer according to plans made by Mr. Vaux. It shows five large beds with walks encircling them. The arrangement is irregular and departs from the conventional. It is unique, careless and attractive. The association will satisfy themselves this summer with planting trees there and arranging the flower beds. The ground is low and has been well drained. Later on fountains and rustic houses may be added. The ladies will look after the fencing of the gardens and will raise the funds for that purpose. There will be two gates to the gardens, three facing on Seely street and one leading towards the lake. The association will give anyone providing a gate the privilege of naming it, as in the

case of "The Prince of Wales Gate," Hyde Park.

IS SHE MRS. PERCY NOW?

SHE WASN'T AT THE BALL.

But she Called the Society Reporters and her Name was in the Papers.

There is a young lady residing not far from St. John whose sole ambition has ever been to gain a tooting in the charmed circle of the four hundred—to gaze, even from a shadowy corner at the gay throng which disports itself within the sacred precincts of the pale society; now this is of itself a very worthy ambition, and were it not for the vivid imagination which the young lady possesses would scarcely lead to anything very startling.

This very doubtful accomplishment—if accomplishment it may be called, has frequently been the source of great amusement to the lady's friends—and, it is to be presumed, to herself also, as it transported her, in imagination, to the most select and exclusive social functions, which were graphically described to admiring and less fortunate listeners; the costumes worn, her chaperone's kindness, the attention she had received from male admirers, all were glowingly related later on; it made not a particle of difference that the lady had not been even bidden to whatever affair might be under discussion—her acquaintances, who did not aspire to the same lofty heights, were not supposed to know this and she was sublimely indifferent to the fact that it might ultimately be discovered that, however, was a remote possibility—and just the one which overlooked her not long ago.

There was a large and fashionable ball given some weeks ago and just whether the person in question had an invitation or not PROGRESS is not prepared to say; she did not go, however, and so the matter of having received an invitation is open to doubt. On the night of the event reporters were in attendance and after the hurry and confusion, incidental upon the arrival of a very large number of guests, had subsided, they compared notes—or, to be strictly accurate, compared lists of the dresses worn and it was then found that the name of this particular young lady graced one of the reporters' lists; it was not the list of PROGRESS' reporter, by the way, who only accepted it upon a positive assurance that the lady would certainly put in an appearance at the ball some time during the night, and had merely sent her name a little in advance. This appeared plausible enough and the papers contained her name and a description of her dress—though uncharitable ones say no such dress as the one described is included in her wardrobe. Intimate friends of the lady, persons who had attended the ball, were at a loss to account for the appearance of her name there and finally concluded that the reporters had mistaken some one else for their versatile friend, and one, at least, of the reporters was busy for several days, explaining how she got that particular name.

The above little incident might have passed off without attracting much comment but the imagination of the subject of this sketch has again been at work, and the ball, the music, and the dresses have been the cause of rapture on her part, and what was lacking in actual knowledge of the evenings festivities was supplied by a very fertile mind. Her dance programme was filled before she had fairly entered the room; several well known young men had expressed great regret that they were too late to secure a dance, and so on, ad infinitum.

The lady will likely, in her own mind, continue to move in the charmed circle, and through this wonderful accomplishment may achieve very brilliant success, but it is not at all likely she will ever again succeed in so completely gulling the reporters.

"Progress" Crayon Portrait Offer.

PROGRESS Crayon Portrait offer is open to old subscribers as well as to new. Any subscribers who pay up their subscription for another year; and send a portrait with a deposit of one dollar in addition to their subscription, can have a portrait enlarged and framed in splendid style, and receive in upon payment of another dollar, making four dollars in all. To those living outside of the city, there will be a small addition express charge, but that will be made as light as possible, or as light as PROGRESS can arrange with the express company to make it. In connection with this offer of PROGRESS some two hundred photographs have already been enlarged and have given most entire satisfaction.

The Crowd was Amused.

A man played several tunes on an accordion and did considerable dancing on the roof of a building at the corner of Union and Sydney streets last Saturday evening. A large crowd gathered, but as the song and dance artist was out of sight for a considerable time, a great many of the crowd do not know what they were a crowd for till this day.

A Great Variety of New Designs in Wall Paper and Window Shades at McArthur's 90 King St.

HAS PERCY LEAR REMARRIED HIS DIVORCED WIFE?

A Halifax Lawyer Saw Them at the Theatre in Boston and the Report That They are Married Again is Pretty General Though it is Not Verified.

PROGRESS readers hardly need an introduction to the people represented by engraved portraits given below. They used to be called Mr. and Mrs. Percy Lear. For a short time there is not the least doubt that Mrs. Percy had no right to the title since for the reasons that Mr. Lear

gave the divorce court at Halifax a learned judge found that she was not a suitable companion for him. But it almost seems as if Percy was of a different mind, because, not long after the divorce was granted he left Halifax for the more attractive city of Boston where his divorced wife was seen, and according to the story told by a gentleman in Halifax who was in the "hub" about the same time, he saw them at the theatre together. This may be a libel upon the fair name of Mr. Lear and the fairer Mrs. Lear—but it cannot be compared to the insinuation conveyed in the report that they have been remarried again. Supposing for an instant that this were true what an amusing finale it would be to the laughable farce that Halifax has witnessed within the past few months. If there is an iota of truth in it how much several, yes, several times several, gentlemen in that city by the sea must feel like kicking themselves and how can they bear to think of the hundreds they paid for the support of the beautiful Mrs. Lear and the satisfaction of her luxurious husband. Mr. Lear says that he intends to return to Halifax and it is to be presumed it the report of his recent marriage is correct that he will take the former or the present Mrs. Lear along with him.

There was one story about this interesting couple that PROGRESS never published and that referred to the touching scene



PERCY J. A. LEAR.

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IS SHE MRS. PERCY ?

when Mrs. Percy left Halifax. A correspondent said that her husband took an affectionate leave of his much advertised wife even though at the time he had made application for divorce. Putting that and this together, the possibilities open to an attractive woman and a forgiving husband are evident to the most obtuse.

The Drunken Man Kept on.

A drunken man was very uncertain in his walk down Charlotte street on Wednesday evening. Where an ordinary man would walk a mile, he would journey seven. At last he fell into a large pane of glass in front of a store. He stood and looked at the broken glass, and said, "I'm very sorry indeed for my—carelessness. I shortly did not mean to injure anyone's property, and I'm willing to pay for it," taking a roll of bills from his pocket in proof of his ability to make any amends in his power. But a lounge said, "See here, you needn't pay for that glass—run right along, and they'll never see you." The drunken man was then upon fired with a new idea. He attempted to run, but it was a failure; so he wisely concluded not

to run, but to walk as fast as ever he could. He walked pretty fast too, for a man in his condition. Then the lounge, and several other loungers, called to him to him to come back and pay for the glass. But the drunken man kept on.

A BOARD OF HEALTH "SPLIT."

A Doctor Who Managed to Get the Best of Another One.

HALIFAX, May 9.—What a charm public positions, especially when accompanied by a large or a small cash perquisite, have for many people! And to what lengths some people will go to accomplish their desires in this respect! The election of Dr. Jones to the city health board over Dr. Murray, is an illustration of both propositions. Dr. Murray had put in good work for two years on the board of health, work which the \$100 fee did not begin to pay for, yet the city council has elected Dr. Jones to take Dr. Murray's place. The story, which thus ended, is a not uninteresting one and shows what manipulation and planning may go on under a calm surface.

It is somewhat unusual for one medico to attempt, or to succeed in ousting a brother professional from a position he has secured, no matter how much he would like the place for himself. This change on the board of health furnishes an instance of this exceptional conduct. There were wheels within wheels in the little affair. Two years ago W. H. Neal was chairman, but Dr. N. E. McKay supplanted him, and it seems that Dr. Murray had the misfortune to vote for the losing man. Accordingly there may have been a couple of reasons for desiring a new man on the board in place of Dr. Murray. A change might mean that Neal would gain a vote when the chairmanship again came up for appointment, and secondly one old score might be wiped out by relegating to unofficial life a man who dared to cast his ballot at the would-be head of the board of health. Mr. Neal has but little personal influence and had he depended on himself he could never it is said have accomplished anything. But it is said he set the wheels in motion and got Dr. Jones in the field as a candidate. Jones' candidature brought a set of new influences into play. Both he and Murray are liberals but the new man has stronger party friends. Again those who favored Jones made it a question of north end versus south end, alleging that the board was too largely composed of men from one end of the city. Jones and his friends set to work on their canvass of the eighteen aldermen. Murray would have been secure of his place had he known what was going on, but he did not. Before Murray was aware of danger he found that a majority of the aldermen had been pledged against him, and for Jones. He started out to undo his unexpected rival's work, and found it too late. The aldermanic mind was made up, and when the city council met the vote stood 11 to 7 in favor of Jones. Here are the names: For Jones—Stewart, Geldert, Musgrave, Dennis, Redden, Butler, Hamilton, Mitchell, Lane, Ryan, Creighton. For Murray—O'Donnell, Hubley, Foster, McFarbridge, Eden, Outbit, Mosher.

It was a neat piece of work. Not that the result was anything to be proud of but because of the shrewdness with which Jones, candidature and election were worked. The canvass of the new man was prosecuted on "the dead quiet," and no one outside the circle knew anything about it till it had been finished. Chairman Neal had secured his point and Dr. Jones had beaten his fellow medico.

The aldermen doubtless think they did what was right in this matter, but there is some adverse comment outside. The annual fee is only \$100, but the money was not the only prize to be attained. A place on the board is a good advertisement for a young medical man, valuable to a young man, and then it brings besides an element of power to an old physician which might prove convenient to possess.

The result of the election for chairman is interesting in view of the Jones appointment. The new board met on Tuesday afternoon. Ald. Ryan and Ald. McFarbridge had made up their minds to vote for McKay. There are only five members on the board, thus leaving Jones and Neal on the other side, and making the parties in effect stand 3 to 2. Jones then voted for the motion to appoint McKay chairman, and the only dissenting voice was that of Mr. Neal, who had his name entered as voting against the successful man.

Sports Are Booming.

It is said by some of the sporting authorities of St. John that more interest is being taken in sports this spring than for many springs past. There are a great many practising, and practising hard, in preparation for coming contests. It is thought that all kinds of sport will not only boom this summer, and St. John, whose supremacy in sport is widely recognized, will not lose many of her laurels in the coming season.